Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page [00122] with the following amended paragraph:

--[00122] PCR was used to amplify the coding region of HGFIN, +60/+1760 (Figure 1, Genbank accession number AF322909). The following primer pairs were used in the PCR reaction: 5'cgg ggtacc atggaatgtctctacta 3' (SEQ ID NO:3) (upstream with *Kpn* I linker) and 5' ccg gaattc tcgaaatttaagaaact 3' (SEQ ID NO:4) (downstream with *Eco*R I linker). The HGFIN-specific sequences are underlined for both the upstream and downstream primers.--